

# INFORMATION REPORT

This Document contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States, within the meaning of Title 18, Sections 793 and 794, of the U.S. Code, as amended. Its transmission or revelation of its contents to or receipt by an unauthorized person is prohibited by law. The reproduction of this form is prohibited.

## SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

## REPORT

DATE DISTR. 30 April 1953

NO. OF PAGES

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

**PLACE ACQUIRED**

## REFERENCES

25X1

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

25X1

1. The USSR has furnished Bulgaria with new-type pontoon bridges for training purposes. Practice maneuvers are now being held on the lakes of Varna and in still waters. The roadway of the completed pontoon bridge lies a few centimeters below water level and is therefore invisible from the air.
2. The bridge is composed of metal boxes, measuring 2.5 x 1 x 1 meters, the weight of which has been tared in such a manner as to allow them to float level with the surface of the water. The individual boxes are placed at one-meter intervals and are connected by wire cables. The box nearest to the shore is attached to the shore in such a way that its surface is 10 centimeters below water level. The last box in the link is attached to the opposite shore in a similar fashion.
3. Since the width of a given river is known, it is possible to calculate the number of pontoon boxes required, and the bridge may be completely assembled and laid by means of boats. Portable pierced steel planks similar to those used for temporary runways are then laid over the pontoon boxes and securely fastened to them by means of clamps. This arrangement also makes it possible to lay tracks across a bridge.
4. The completed bridge is then anchored to the river bottom from alternate boxes and pulled by winches to a level of 10 centimeters below the water surface. Winches are also used to draw the connecting cables taut.
5. Since the boxes are designed to float on the surface but are forcibly drawn below water level, a natural buoyancy results which serves as a counterbalance to the pressure exercised on the bridge by the weight of the load it has to carry.
6. As soon as practice in still waters has been completed, training with these pontoon bridges will start on the Danube, near Ostrov, Rumania.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

|       |   |          |   |      |   |     |   |     |  |     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------|---|----------|---|------|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| STATE | X | ARMY Ev. | X | NAVY | X | AIR | X | FBI |  | AEC |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------|---|----------|---|------|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X")

(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#")

1085